Production of watches

2279. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is a short supply of indigenous watches which encourages the smuggling of watches into the country; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to increase indigenous production of watches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM):(a) and (b) With a view to increase indigenous production of watches, reduce the cost of indigenous watches and to discourage smuggling of watches into the country, Government has already taken the following steps:—

(i) A capacity of 22 million numbers has been approved in the organised sector. The production of indigenous watches in the organised sector had increased from 6 millions in 1985 to 7 millions in 1986. The Govt. may consider a few more schemes on merits.

(ii) The current Import Policy provides for liberal import of watch components.

(iii) A number of foreign collaboration proposals with internationally reputed watch manufacturers have been approved.

(iv) In February 1985, Government announced a package of concessions to the watch industry including reduction in excise duty and concessional rate of customs duty on the import of raw materials, components and machinery used in the manufacture of wrist watches.

(v) For accelerating the growth of Digital Electronic watches, Department of Electronics in May, 1987, decided to allow manufacture of Digital Electronic Watches by the organised sector.

Commissioning of Mangalore Refinery

2280. SHRI VEERSHETTY MOGLAPPA KUSHNOOR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the Mangalore Refinery is likely to be commissioned; and

(b) what is the amount spents so far on the acquisition and other work connected with the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Government have approved the preparation of the Detailed Project Report for the establishment of a refinery in Mangalore. The details would be known only after the DPR is prepared.

(b) Till 30-9-1987, Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. has spent Rs. 1.1 crores on this project.

Imort of optic fibre cables and lines system

2281. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have placed and order for optic fibre cables and optic lines system in Allahabad with NKT Electronics of Denmark; if so, what are the details thereof; and

(b) the names of other companies which have submitted tenders for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, against global tenders floated by Hindustan Cables Ltd. a Central Govt. Undertaking, for the Fibre Optics Project, 4 firm had sent their offers—(i) M|s. NKT, Denmark, (ii) M|s. STC, UK; (iii) M|s. Nippon Electric Co. Japan and (iv) M|s. Nichimen Corporation of Japan. The offers of M|s. NKT and M|s. STC were found complete and technically acceptable. Based on a techno-economic assessment, the offer